



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held May 10, 2005, the Board took the following action:

S-1

Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director, and Fred Leaf, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health Services, and Kae Robertson, Managing Director, Navigant Consulting, Inc., presented the following attached reports:

Activity report for the week ending May 6, 2005, detailing activities conducted by the Director of Health Services and Navigant Consulting, Inc. within Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center; and

Evaluation on the pace of reform at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center; and the County's affiliation with Drew University detailing recommendations on continuing affiliation with the University and a plan that ensures medical services are provided consistent within community standards of care.

Dr. Bart Williams, Chairman, Board of Trustees, and Harry Douglas, Ph.D., President, Drew University; Dr. Harry Ward, Chief, Division of Nephrology, Dr. Gwendolyn Harbert, Vice-President, Committees of Interns and Residents, Souril Jalali, M.D., and Dr. Hector Flores, King/Drew Medical Center Advisory Board, and other interested persons addressed the Board.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

"To resolve the issues at King Drew Medical Center, the Board of Supervisors should immediately appoint a Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Director from an existing County hospital who has a proven track record of having their County facility accredited and hold County employees responsible for the daily operations of King/Drew Medical Center.

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“I therefore recommend that the Director of Health Services, in collaboration with the Chief Administration Officer and the Director of Personnel, reassign an experienced Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Director from one of our other County hospitals to King/Drew Medical Center for a 24-month term of service, and provide appropriate compensation to commiserate the duties required.”

After discussion, no action was taken on Supervisor Antonovich’s aforementioned recommendation.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Knabe:

“The County should develop a contingency plan to ensure the provision of quality medical services in the South Los Angeles area if operations at King/Drew Medical Center do not improve prior to the expiration of the Navigant contract. Services provided at King/Drew Medical Center are too important to the safety net to be lost.”

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich, and Molina; Noes: Supervisor Burke, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Health Services, County Counsel and other appropriate departments, to develop a contingency plan to ensure the provision of quality medical services in the South Los Angeles area if operations at King/Drew Medical Center do not improve prior to the expiration of the Navigant contract. The plan should call for:
 - Contracting out the entire operation of the hospital to a qualified hospital service provider employing qualified personnel; and
 - Insofar as possible, the plan should call for continued provision of all hospital services during the transition from County operation to contractor operation;

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S-1 (Continued)

2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and other appropriate departments to contact potential qualified providers of hospital service in order to determine whether, under what conditions and in what period of time they would be willing and able to operate the King/Drew Medical Center on a contractual basis with the County and report back with estimated costs;
3. Instructed County Counsel to report back to the Board on the legal requirements for such a plan, and the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health Services to report back on the employee relations implications of such a plan;
4. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health Services to jointly open discussions with the UCLA and USC Schools of Medicine to determine what role, if any, they could play in a contracted-out hospital; and
5. Requested these reports be presented to the Board of Supervisors on or before August 2, 2005, so that if operations at King/Drew Medical Center do not qualitatively improve by that time, the Board of Supervisors will be in a position to credibly implement such alternative plan before the expiration of the current Navigant contract. Similarly, if operations at King/Drew Medical Center do improve, and if such improvements are sufficient to render a contracting plan unnecessary, work on such plan can be suspended or cancelled.

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Attachments

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

(ALSO SEE BOARD ORDER NOS. 3, 7 AND 52 THIS DATE)